

MESSAGE TO TOMORROW'S PACESETTERS

The Class of 1941. It doesn't seem like 47 years ago. The memories are strong. Ours was the largest class to have graduated from Webster Groves High School up to that time - some 250 of us. And plenty of talent and ability. We had won the Little Brown Jug at the last Turkey-day contest and many of our stars on the field were headed off to play (and work) at colleges across the country.

What we didn't know at that time was that before the year was out our country would be at war. Everything changed, but the team work and team spirit we had learned at Webster High became vitally important as we enlisted to do our part in World War II.

Not everyone can be a football hero. I certainly wasn't. But I did participate in activities where I could grow and occasionally make a difference. I wanted to be a lawyer so I went out for debating. We had a crack team which toured Missouri and surrounding states. The only team sport which didn't conflict was wrestling so I went out for wrestling. I was a better debater than a wrestler but I improved enough to make the freshman team at Amherst, as well as the soccer team. I parlayed my work on The Echo to become Chairman of the Board of the Amherst Student after the war.

In my post college years, I have enjoyed horseback riding, which I learned at Webster in the Riding Club, as well as tennis, swimming and skiing. In addition to the discipline and competitive spirit that comes from such participation, I have made many valued and lasting friendships.

I'm delighted^K that Webster's athletic program is faring well. The baseball and soccer teams enjoyed banner seasons last year and my hometown is pulling for a successful football team this fall.

I have found that success in sports, and life in general, depends on perseverance. It depends on building the trust and confidence of others in order to achieve a common goal. It depends on playing hard, but playing fair. And, perhaps most important, it depends on an ability and willingness to fully commit the resources of the mind and the heart.

Beating Kirkwood High on Thanksgiving was exhilarating when I was a high school student, just as it is now. Winning is important in sports and in our society as a whole. A genuine winner plays by the rules, accepts discipline, and takes responsibility for mistakes. I have met many of these winners in my lifetime -- men and women of character -- and they have earned the respect and admiration of their colleagues and competitors.

It doesn't really matter whether you are a running back on the football team or a miler on the track team; whether you play clarinet in the school band or sing in the school choir; whether you speak on the debating team or report for The Echo. What matters is the integrity and level of commitment you bring to whatever field you choose.

Let me say a word for the "rooters." Every team knows the importance of community support. In getting behind our teams, in good seasons and bad, in cheering them on, we demonstrate our community spirit. Our country would be better off if we did more clapping for each other.

Whatever your role in life, and virtually all avenues are open to you, the key is participation -- being part of the solution, whether at the high school level, the college level, or out in the business world. It is the willingness and enthusiasm to make a contribution that brings forth the best within us. Sports and other extracurricular activities are excellent places to channel your efforts, and I hope all of you achieve the goals you set for yourselves.

Go Statesmen!

JUDGE:

You have been asked by John C. Schute of Sky Line Equipment of St. Louis to write a message to today's youth for publication in the Webster Groves High School sports program. This program will be used to raise funds for the high school's athletic budget, and it will be sold at all sporting events and at local stores and businesses.

Your message and an accompanying photo will appear on the inside cover of the sports program, and Mr. Schute would like to receive it by Monday, 22 August.

Mr. Schute also asked that a White House and FBI tour be arranged for four adults in September, and I am taking care of these arrangements.

The draft message is attached.

STAT


Bill Baker

*we checked
and Webster Groves
had a very fine
sports year and
expects another.*

MESSAGE TO TODAY'S YOUTH

C Much has changed at Webster Groves High School since I graduated some 47 years ago, but commitment and a belief in excellence has endured -- both in the classroom and out on the playing field. It is gratifying for me to know that more than three-fourths of the Class of '88 is attending college this fall. Nine students were National Merit Scholarship finalists last year -- a very impressive number for a school the size of Webster Groves.

As a former wrestler for The Statesmen, I still have a keen interest in how our athletic program is faring, and we have fielded some outstanding teams in recent years. The basketball and soccer teams enjoyed banner seasons last year, and the entire community is pulling for a successful football season this fall.

Participating in sports was an important part of my life in high school and college, and to this day I enjoy a vigorous game of tennis. Many of the lessons I learned from athletics have served me well in both public and private life. I have found that success in sports, and life in general, depends on perseverance. It depends on building the trust and confidence of others in order to achieve a common goal. It depends on playing hard, but playing fair. And, perhaps most important, it depends on an ability and willingness to fully commit the resources of the mind and the heart.

Beating Kirkwood High on Thanksgiving was exhilarating when I was a high school student, just as it is now. Winning is important in sports and in our society as a whole. But I believe a winner in the finest tradition is someone who can accept the losses and adversities of life graciously. A genuine winner plays by the rules, accepts discipline, and admits responsibility for mistakes. I have met many of these winners in my lifetime -- men and women of character -- and they have earned the respect and admiration of their colleagues and competitors.

It doesn't really matter whether you are a running back on the football team or a miler on the track team; whether you play clarinet in the school band or sing in the school choir; whether you speak on the debating team or report for The Echo. What matters is the integrity and level of commitment you bring to whatever field you choose.

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↖ ~~It is in putting your effort where your heart is that you will achieve success and happiness in life.~~ Sports and other extracurricular activities are excellent places to channel your efforts, and I hope all of you achieve the goals you set for yourselves.

Go STATESMEN !

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*public
high school*

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